Message Text

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INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 INR-07 NSAE-00 PA-01 USIA-06 PRS-01 SP-02 /028 W

-----100039Z 097172 /21

R 091459Z MAY 77 FM AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV TO SECSTATE WASHDC 6068 INFO AMEMBASSY AMMAN AMEMBASSY CAIRO AMEMBASSY DAMASCUS AMCONSUL JERUSALEM

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE TEL AVIV 3271

E.O. 11652: N/A TAGS: PINT, IS

SUBJECT: LATEST YEDIOT POLL SHOWS LITTLE CHANGE; 30 PERCENT UNDECIDE

D

REF: TEL AVIV 2844

1. YEDIOT AHARONOT'S LATEST POLL, TAKEN APRIL 27 - MAY 2, CONTINUES TO GIVE THE ALIGNEMNT A SMALL LEAD OVER THE LIKUD AND TO SHOW SOME 30 PERCENT OF THE SAMPLE UNDECIDED (21.1 PERCENT) OR REFUSING TO ANSWER (9 PERCENT). AS IN ITS PREVIOUS POLLS, ARABS WERE NOT INCLUDED IN THE SURVEY AND SEVEN PERCENT, OR EIGHT SEATS, ARE RESERVED IN THE RESULTS FOR RAKAH AND THE MINORITY LISTS IN ACCORDANCE WITH THE EXPECTED TOTAL ARAB VOTE. ALSO NOT CANVASSED WERE AGRICULTURAL SETTLEMENTS, WHICH YEDIOT SAYS CONSTITUTE 8.5 PERCENT OF THE VOTING PUBLIC. THIS SEGMENT OF THE POPULATION WAS FACTORED INTO THE RESULTS ON THE BASIS OF ITS VOTING PATTERN IN THE LAST ELECTION. (COMMENT: WHAT ABOUT THE DMC?) LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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2. THE RESULTS AND PERCENTAGES IN SEATS, AFTER EXCLUDING THE UNDECIDED/REFUSE TO ANSWER CATEGORY:

LATEST APRIL

PERCENTAGE SEATS PERCENTAGE SEAT

ALIGNMENT	[32.2		39	3	2.9	4	40	
LIKUD	29.5		36	-	28.8		35		
DMC	12.5		15	1	13.1		16		
NRP	7.6		9	7.	4	9			
TWO AGUDA	AH PAF	RTIES	4		5		4.1		5
SHLOMZION	1	1.3		2-	1.	6	2		
SHELI	2.1		2 PL	US	1.7		2		
ILP	1.6		2	1.4		2-			
CIVIL RIGHT	ΓS I	1		1	0.8		1		
RAKAH & M	INORI	ΓIES ?	7	;	8	7		8	
OTHERS	1.2				1.3				

YEDIOT'S LAST POLL WILL BE TAKEN THIS WEEK AND PUBLISHED MAY 13.

3. COMMENT: IN ADDITION TO THE POLL'S DEFICIENCY IN NOT SURVEYING AGRICULTURAL SETTLEMENTS, WE QUESTION YEDIOT'S IMPLICIT ASSUMPTION THAT THE UNDECIDED/REFUSE CATEGORY WILL DIVIDE IN THEIR VOTING IN THE SAME PROPORTION AS THE REST OF THE POPULATION. ANY MAJOR TREND AMONG THIS UNUSUALLY LARGE (FOR THIS LATE DATE) SEGMENT COULD HAVE A MAJOR IMPACT ON THE RESULTS. THE UNDECIDED FIGURE IS THE ONE TO WATCH IN THE FINAL POLLS BEFORE ELECTION DAY. IF IT REMAINS HIGH, THE RESULT WILL BE EVEN MORE DIFFICULT TO FORECAST.

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X Capture Date: 01-Jan-1994 12:00:00 am

Channel Indicators: n/a

Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED

Concepts: PUBLIC OPINION POLLS, ELECTION FORECASTS

Control Number: n/a

Copy: SINGLE Sent Date: 09-May-1977 12:00:00 am Decaption Date: 01-Jan-1960 12:00:00 am

Decaption Note: Disposition Action: RELEASED

Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW

Disposition Date: 22 May 2009 Disposition Event: Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1977TELAV03271
Document Source: CORE

Document Unique ID: 00 Drafter: n/a

Enclosure: n/a Executive Order: N/A Errors: N/A

Expiration: Film Number: D770163-0467

Format: TEL

From: TEL AVIV Handling Restrictions: n/a

Image Path: ISecure: 1

Legacy Key: link1977/newtext/t19770577/aaaacolv.tel

Line Count: 89 Litigation Code IDs: Litigation Codes:

Litigation History:
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Message ID: d965c397-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc

Office: ACTION NEA

Original Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE Original Handling Restrictions: n/a Original Previous Classification: n/a Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a

Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a

Previous Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a Reference: 77 TEL AVIV 2844

Retention: 0

Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED Review Content Flags: Review Date: 31-Jan-2005 12:00:00 am

Review Event: Review Exemptions: n/a **Review Media Identifier:** Review Release Date: n/a Review Release Event: n/a **Review Transfer Date:** Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a

SAS ID: 2591354 Secure: OPEN Status: NATIVE

Subject: LATEST YEDIOT POLL SHOWS LITTLE CHANGE; 30 PERCENT UNDECIDE D

TAGS: PINT, IS To: STATE Type: TE

vdkvgwkey: odbc://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/d965c397-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc

Review Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 22 May 2009

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